

**University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Graduate Program Review Committee (GPRC)**

Monday, September 12, 2022

1:00 p.m. – 2:20 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Present:

(Committee Members): Alexander Arnold, Suzanne Boyd, Winson Chu, Donald Force, Lindsay McHenry, Joshua Mersky, Timothy O'Brien, Gillian Rodger, Erin Ruppel, Katie Vater, Bo Zhang

(Non-Committee Members): Tiffany Nation (Graduate Programs Coordinator); Victoria Moerchen (Ex-Officio); Bonita Klein-Tasman (Ex-Officio)

Absent: Ryoichi Amano, Alessandra Gillen (Graduate School)

Guests: Benjamin Campbell, Gerlinde Hoebel, Gyaneshwa Prasad, Jeanne Erickson, Min Wu, Jennifer Fink, Barbara Zabawa

I. Call to Order

Called to order at 1:00 p.m.

II. Announcements

There were around table introduction of the committee members.

III. Welcome – Graduate School Associate Dean Klein-Tasman

Klein-Tasman thanked new and continuing committee members on behalf of the Graduate School in advance for the work that they will complete this year and the work that was completed in the previous year by continuing committee members. She informed the committee that governance committees are really, really critically important to maintaining the quality of graduate education here at UWM and that this committee requires significant commitment to be involved in numerous meetings exploring current graduate programs.

She informed the committee of the reconstructing of the Graduate School which is now combined with the Office of Research and that Mark Harris is now the Dean of the Graduate School. She also introduced the new associate dean of the Graduate School Victoria Moerchen whom will be ex-officio and in her absence she will attend as ex-officio.

IV. Review of the [Graduate Program Review Committee \(GPRC\) Charter \(A3.05.2\)](#)

Boyd walked the committee through the charge of the Graduate Program Review Committee per the charter.

V. Review of the [GFC Doc. No. 951 \(Faculty Doc. No. 3197R1\) Procedures for Qualitative Reviews of Graduate Programs](#)

Boyd walked the committee through a brief summary and review of the policy. She recommended that the committee member set aside time to review and read the policy in its entirety as their convenience.

VI. Approve Minutes from the April 11, 2022 Meeting

The minutes were approved, motioned, and passed unanimously.

VII. 2020 – 2021 Graduate Program Review Committee Annual Report

The annual report was approved, motioned, and passed unanimously.

VIII. Biological Sciences MS / PhD Program Review External Report

Alexander Arnold and Benjamin Campbell, former committee member served as internal reviewers.

Campbell reported that the external reviewers gave the program a B rating. There were several concerns from the external reviewers such as the program doesn't have graduate courses and that there are only two specific graduate courses and that was a real concern.

Secondly, the stipends are a real problem and in talking to the graduate students it was made pretty clear. Students express concern that it's really hard to do graduate work when there is not adequate funding. In spite of this concern the program has over the past ten years produced 170 graduate students which is very impressive. The program made a mend by giving preprofessional masters degrees in which he was very impressed by the program's effort and creativity. He noted a bit of friction with the administration in not providing more resources to assist with this tremendous effort. He thought that the program made a very positive move to bring their separate programs together so they could do a better job of co-advising students. The fact that the program has lost half of their faculty in the last 10 years is also very concerning. Overall Arnold and Campbell agreed with the external report and B rating.

Discussion followed.

Recommendation for continuation of the graduate program for the next 10 years without considerations was motioned, seconded, and approved unanimously.

IX. Healthcare Administration, MHA Program Review External Report

Bo Zhang and Jeanne Erickson, former retired committee member served as internal reviewers.

Erickson reported that the external reviewer gave the program a C rating and the program did not meet their expectations and requested specific improvements. The external reviewers noted lack of resources. The internal reviewers' understanding was that there were mainly two parts which the first part was faculty members due to that there are currently only two faculty members which serve as co-directors, advisors, and program managers and one of them is levy, so the program is heavily relied on the ad hoc faculty. She informed that the ad hoc instructors are actually very involved and work really hard. The other part is the lack of student support. There were several complaints from the students which weighted heavily on the external reviewers' external report. She noted that the program has received approval to hire a program manager to help with the code of the administrative tasks of the program but noted that the program will need much more support. There is a need to expand the role of advisors, more faculty, and resources to develop program evaluations and competency mapping.

Discussion followed.

A recommendation for continuance of the graduate program with show cause was made. The program will have one year to submit an action plan to the Unit Dean showing cause for continuing and the next review will be scheduled in five years unless the Unit Dean certifies progress. A motioned was made for the recommendation, seconded, and approved unanimously.

X. Other Business

There was no other business.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:08 p.m.